

## MINUTES

### Association for Conservation Information Business Meeting

Brown County State Park, Nashville, IN ● July 12, 2017 ● 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. EDT

#### ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order.

#### ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call.

##### Board Members in Attendance:

- Kim Nix (AL, President)
- Jenifer Wisniewski (GA, Vice President)
- Judy Stokes Weber (NH, Treasurer)
- Lance Cherry (NM, Secretary)
- Micah Homes (OK, Past President, Ways & Means)
- Jane Gustafson (NE, Board)
- Aaron Meier (NV, Board)
- Blake Podhajsky (OK, Board)
- Dan Dennison (HI, Board)
- Bonnie Holding (ME, Board)
- Mandy Futey (NJ, Board)
- Joanie Straub (MO, Board)
- Julie Hammonds (AZ, Awards)
- Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- Michael Gray (KY, Board, Scholarships)
- Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- Phil Bloom (IN, Conference)

##### Unable to attend:

- Randy Zellers (AR, Auction)
- Jeff Kurrus (NE, Board)

##### Membership in Attendance:

- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection - Wildlife Division
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- Massachusetts Wildlife
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Nebraska Game and Parks
- Nebraska Forest Service
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- New Jersey DEEP
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

- Ohio Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources

**Unable to attend:**

- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- American Sportfishing Association
- Aquatic Resources Education Association
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
- Fresh Air Educators
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- North Dakota Game and Fish
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
- Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- West Virginia Division of Wildlife Resources
- Vermont Fish and Wildlife
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

**ITEM NO. 3: Opening Remarks.**

Presented by Kim Nix, President

President Nix welcomed membership to the annual business meeting.

**ITEM NO. 4: Treasurer's Report.**

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

ACI is in excellent financial condition thanks to strong conference returns and the success of recent awards contests. ACI's current account balance is \$67,091.

A printed copy of the 2017-2018 ACI draft budget was provided to the membership in attendance.

**ITEM NO. 5: Auditing Committee Report.**

Presented by the President appointed Committee

Bonnie Holding (ME) and Joanie Straub (MO) were appointed to the auditing committee by President Kim Nix. The committee reported they had looked the finances over and everything is in order. No

issues were found. President Nix thanked the committee and Treasure Judy Stokes Weber for a job well done.

**ITEM NO. 6: Auction Report.**

Presented by the Phil Bloom

Phil Bloom (IN), reported a final count of 109 registrants for this year's ACI Annual Conference. The auction, held on July 11, raised an estimated \$5,500 for the association. Phil Bloom added his appreciation to the participants of this year's conference for adjusting their schedules resulting from unexpected rainfall.

**ITEM NO. 7: Awards Committee Report.**

Presented by Julie Hammonds, Awards Committee Chair

Membership was reminded "the awards contest is more than a fundraiser – It's the way we share work with colleges across the nation."  
This year's contest set a record with 412 entries. Tonight, 80 will be honored with awards. The entry fee for this year was \$40 per submission.

Julie Hammonds let the membership know it is still a challenge to find judges encouraged those in attendance to apply for the positions next year.

No changes to the contest were recommended.

**ITEM NO. 8: Futures Conference Report.**

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair

The 2019 conference is currently slated for Hawaii. A hand vote was called to gauge interest and ability for states to attend. An estimated count of 25 members indicated probable attendance. Kay Ellerhoff will work to send out a more formal survey to determine the feasibility of states to attend in 2019.

The following states are slated to host future ACI Annual Conferences: 2019 Hawaii, 2020 New Mexico, 2021 New Jersey, 2022 Georgia/South Carolina, 2023 Oklahoma, 2024 Michigan.

The following states or locations have expressed interest in hosting the ACI Annual Conference in the future: Jackson Hole, WY, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Washington, Wyoming and Virginia.

The following states are being contacted for the futures list: Oregon, California, Vermont/New Hampshire/Maine and Colorado and Kansas.

**ITEM NO. 9: Invitation to Missouri for 2018 ACI Conference.**

Presented by Joanie Straub, Board Member and 2018 Conference Chair

The following letter of invitation was presented to President Kim Nix, the board and membership:

July 5, 2017

Ms. Kim Nix, President  
Association for Conservation Information  
c/o Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
64 N. Union St., Suite 106  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Ms. Nix:

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is pleased to host the 2018 Association for Conservation Information Annual Conference and wishes to extend this official invitation to join us in Springfield, Missouri, July 29-Aug. 2, 2018, for the 80th year of this conference.

MDC is also celebrating our 80th anniversary this coming year, including sharing our conservation story around the state and asking Missourians how we can stay better connected-now and into the future. We wanted to build on the excellent storytelling theme in Indiana and focus on Connecting the Dots: An Integrated Communications Approach for ACI 2018. How do we stay relevant with our conservation story? How do we connect the dots with diverse audiences and key partners? How do we utilize communications, including new technology, to help us get there?

ACI 2018 will be held at the University Plaza Hotel in downtown Springfield, which is in close walking distance to local restaurants, retail shops, and the Springfield Cardinals Stadium. Conference plans are also underway for world-class speakers, engaging topics, educational sponsors, exciting outdoor experiences, and a chance to see some of Springfield's best attractions, including the WOLF School and the Wonders of Wildlife Museum at Bass Pro Shops.

Come join us in Missouri in 2018 to experience the best of Missouri! We are excited to host this incredible group of communications professionals to share in best practices with other states, vital professional networking, and learning about new topics and technology on the horizon.

Sincerely,

SARA PARKER PAULEY  
DIRECTOR

The drawing for the Missouri gift basket was held and limited to those in attendance and the the winner is Phil Bloom, IN.

**ITEM NO. 10: Honorary Lifetime Membership**

Presented by Kim Nix, President

President Kim Nix recognized past Honorary Lifetime Members and called for nominations from the floor for the 2018 Honorary Lifetime Member. No nominations were received.

**ITEM NO. 11: Nominating Committee Report.**

Presented by the Aaron Meier (NV), Micah Homes (OK) and Mandy Futey (NJ)  
Jane, Aaron and Michael cycle off.

## **ITEM NO. 12: Election of Officers and Board Members.**

President Kim Nix appointed Aaron Meier (NV), Micah Homes (OK) and Mandy Futey (NJ) to the nominating committee to select a slate of officers and board members for the membership to vote on at the business meeting.

Kim Nix (AL, President), Jenifer Wisniewski (GA, Vice President), Judy Stokes Weber (NH, Treasurer) and Lance Cherry (NM, Secretary) committed to serve their second term.

After due consideration the Committee offered the following nominations to the board:

Board members – 3-year term, expiring 2020:

- Sara DiRienzo (WY)
- Alix Pedraza (SC)
- Andrea Jones (MT)

The President asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Being none he asked for a motion to approve the slate of officers and board members.

**MOTION:** Phil Bloom moved to accept the slate of nominees presented. Jane seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Voice vote taken. All present voted in the Affirmative. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## **ITEM NO. 13: New Business:**

Communications Chair, Scott Ball (FL) presented the following report:

### **Membership**

- New Individual-level member: Powderhook (Eric Dinger)
- Working with Agency-level members to update their listings in the ACI online directory ([aci-net.org/updates/job-openings/](http://aci-net.org/updates/job-openings/)). The update is not complete, but we're making progress. If you notice an error, please contact Scott Ball, [scottball@comcast.net](mailto:scottball@comcast.net).
- Currently, there are 10 state agencies that are not active members. We are reaching out to their I&E directors to bring (or return) them into the fold. Aiming to place added emphasis on recruitment in the next year.
- We updated the content of the ACI brochure (online at [aci-net.org/pdf/2008\\_aci\\_brochure.pdf](http://aci-net.org/pdf/2008_aci_brochure.pdf)). We'd like to update the design, too, and would welcome the voluntary assistance of one of our many talented graphic artists.

### **Communications**

- Salute and thank-you to Lance Cherry for migrating website content to new platform last fall.
  - The website now maintains an archive of past issues of The Balance Wheel, beginning with the September 2016 issue.
  - Added 330 photos from past conferences to the website. Additional photos welcomed, as are suggestions for new website content.
- We publish The Balance Wheel online on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each odd-numbered month (or soonest business day thereafter). Travel scholarship recipients provide much of the content, but we encourage and appreciate members who submit brief articles (300-500 words) about activities/initiatives in their states that are of interest to members.
- The Balance Wheel distribution list now has 471 subscribers via MailChimp. We also communicate via the Yahoo listserv, with 335 members, and Facebook, with 430 followers.

- Each of these communications tools serves a different purpose. We strongly encourage members to subscribe to all 3 so you don't miss out on important news and information. Also, please encourage your co-workers to do likewise.

President Kim Nix announced the appointments of new chairs to the Awards Committee and Auction Committee.

The Awards Chair is Aaron Meier (NV) and the Auction Chair is Vice President Jenifer Wisniewski (GA).

**ITEM NO. 14: Adjournment.**

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m. EDT.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cherry".

*Submitted by Lance Cherry, Secretary*